

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

contact: Marcia McBrien | (313) 972-3219 or (517) 373-0129

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **GLEN M. BIS NAMED CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT; MICHAEL J. SCHMEDLEN TO SERVE AS DEPUTY CHIEF COMMISSIONER**

LANSING, MI, December 1, 2004 – Glen M. Bis of Ann Arbor has been named Chief Commissioner of the Michigan Supreme Court, the Court announced today. Bis has named Michael J. Schmedlen of Laingsburg as the Court's Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The appointments, effective today, mean that Bis and Schmedlen will oversee the work of the Supreme Court Commissioners, the Court's permanent legal staff. The Commissioners review applications for leave to appeal to the Court and report to the Justices on the contents of those applications. The Commissioners also provide research and support to the Court on a wide variety of other matters.

"These leadership positions call for impeccable legal scholarship and great integrity," said Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan. "Mr. Bis and Mr. Schmedlen are seasoned attorneys who meet those exacting standards."

Corrigan also thanked departing Chief Commissioner Frank J. Greco of Lansing, who served in that position from January 2004. "Mr. Greco graciously delayed his retirement in order to help the Court through this transition," said Corrigan. "This was one of many times during his 27-year career with the Court that Mr. Greco was asked to take on challenging and sometimes sensitive projects, and he never disappointed. I and my fellow Justices give him our heartfelt thanks for his dedication and all best wishes on his retirement."

Bis began his legal career in private practice, first as an associate attorney with the Detroit-based law firm of Honigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn, where he concentrated his practice in health care and labor law, and then with the Southfield law firm of Levin, Levin, Garvett and Dill, where he specialized in labor and education law. From 1989 to May 2002, Bis worked for the Michigan Court of Appeals. He began as a Court of Appeals Commissioner, preparing research reports on applications for leave to appeal and original actions in that court. He later became a District Commissioner, training and supervising Court of Appeals research staff. Bis became a Commissioner of the Michigan Supreme Court in May 2002.

A native of Detroit, Bis attended the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and received his undergraduate degree with high distinction from the University of Michigan in 1975. He also holds a Master's Degree in Philosophy from the University of Michigan and

graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Michigan Law School in 1982. Bis and his wife Jean reside in Ann Arbor.

Schmedlen joined the Supreme Court Commissioners' Office in 1988 after 15 years in private practice with the Lansing law firm of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith. He became an equity shareholder of the firm in 1979 and vice president of the firm in 1987. His practice emphasized litigation and labor law, as well as constitutional cases. In the 1970s and 1980s, Schmedlen served on the Supreme Court's Standard Jury Instruction Committee and the State Bar's Civil Procedure Committee.

Schmedlen received his undergraduate degree with distinction from the University of Michigan in 1969; he also graduated *cum laude* from the University of Michigan Law School in 1973. He and his wife Judy reside in Laingsburg.

-- MSC --